

1. The Council of Europe's terminological glossary

It is important to stress that the terminology used in this field by the Council of Europe has varied considerably since the early 1970s: the subjects of this study have been designated by terms such as "Gypsies and other Travellers", "nomads", "populations of nomadic origin", "Gypsies", "Roma (Gypsies)", "Roma", "Roma/Gypsies", "Roma/Gypsies and Travellers", and "Roma and Travellers".

From 2006 until autumn 2010, official Council of Europe texts abided by the following terminology, as explained in Committee of Ministers Recommendation Rec(2008)5:

The term "Roma and Travellers" used in the present text refers to Roma, Sinti, Kale, Travellers and related groups in Europe, and aims to cover the wide diversity of groups concerned, including groups which identify themselves as Gypsies.

A slightly modified definition has been used at the Council of Europe since October 2010:

The term "Roma" used at the Council of Europe refers to Roma, Sinti, Kale and related groups in Europe, including Travellers and the Eastern groups (Dom and Lom), and covers the wide diversity of the groups concerned, including persons who identify themselves as Gypsies.

An updated glossary is available at www.coe.int/roma/.

The earlier definition of "Roma and Travellers" should be borne in mind when reading this study, even though we usually use only the term "Roma", and even though official texts adopted some time ago, and to which reference may be made, employ such terms as "nomads" or "Gypsies".

In view of the many variants found in the different Council of Europe documents and on its website, it was thought essential to harmonise terminology within the Organisation. In December 2006 the Translation Department, together with staff at the Roma and Travellers Division and the Education of Roma Children in Europe project, drew up a terminological glossary in consultation with the Roma and Travellers community.

Some of the decisions on terminology also derive from the conclusions of a seminar held at the Council of Europe in September 2003 on Cultural Identities of Roma, Gypsies, Travellers and Related Groups in Europe, which

brought together representatives of different groups in Europe (Roma, Sinti, Kale, Romanichals, Boyash, Ashkali, Egyptians, Yenish, Travellers, etc.) as well as representatives of various international organisations (Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe – Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, European Commission, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, among others).

The glossary has been updated for this publication in order to reflect the present consensus in the Council of Europe. It takes account of recent developments with regard to usage and acceptance in everyday language.

Even though the glossary developed by the Council of Europe has been taken up by numerous international organisations, the recommendations below apply primarily to the terminology employed in the Organisation.

Terms designating groups

ROMA

a Rom (n)

Roma (pl)

Roma (adj)

Romani (adj, restricted use)

Some variants of Romani double the “r” in “Rrom”; this spelling is also used for political reasons in certain countries, e.g. Romania (to distinguish Rroma from Romanians).

In English, both “Roma” and “Romani” are used as an adjective, as in “a Roma(ni) woman” or “Roma(ni) communities”. But there is a clear preference for “Romani” when referring to the language and culture, as in “Romani language” or “Romani culture”.

“Rom” means “man of the Roma ethnic group” or “husband”, depending on the variant of Romani or the author. The Roma are – with the Sinti and Kale – one of the three main branches of the Roma (generic term), a people originally from northern India.

Roma are most numerous in the Balkans and central and eastern Europe. Most of them speak the Romani language (*romani čhib*). They are divided into sub-groups (e.g. Kelderash, Lovari, Gurbeti, Churari, Ursari).

In the Balkans, there are also groups who regard themselves as Roma, but do not speak Romani. These include the Boyash (Beash, Bayash, Banyash, Baieși or Rudari, depending on the country), whose language derives from Moeso-Romanian, and some Ashkali, who speak Albanian. Other groups, who resemble the Roma in certain respects, such as the Egyptians (so-called because they reputedly came from Egypt, and who also speak Albanian) and some Ashkali, insist on their ethnic difference.

SINTI (MANUSH)

a Sinto (n)

Sinti (pl)

Sinti (adj)

The Sinti are mainly found in German-speaking regions (Germany, Switzerland, Austria), Benelux and certain Scandinavian countries (e.g. Sweden), as well as in northern Italy (Piedmont, Lombardy) and southern France (Provence).

In France, Sinti are called "*Manouches*" (English: Manush). "Manush" comes from a Romani word meaning "human being".

Sinto, the language spoken by the Sinti, (called "*romnepen*" in the language itself) is a Germanised version of the Romani language.

The southern sub-branch of the Sinti living in northern Italy and southern France speaks another variant of the Sinto language, using a partly Italian-based vocabulary.

KALE (SPANISH GYPSIES)

a Kalo (n)

Kale (pl)

Kale (adj)

The Kale (more commonly called "Gypsies") of the Iberian peninsula and southern France have practically lost the use of Romani. They speak Kaló, which is Spanish (in vocabulary and grammar) with some vestiges of Romani. Today there are two variants (Spanish Kaló and Catalan Kaló). In Spanish it is written with a "c" (Caló, Calé), but the spelling with "k" is the recommended international version.

There is also a "Kaalé" group in Finland which is striving to maintain its traditions, and there are Kale in Wales who lost the use of Kaló in the 1950s.

TRAVELLERS

a Traveller (n)

Travellers (pl)

Traveller (adj)

Travellers proper are to be found in Ireland and Great Britain and are quite distinct ethnically from Roma/Sinti/Kale groups. Travellers' ancestors do not originate from northern India, unlike Roma/Sinti/Kale.

In Ireland they are officially considered an indigenous community which is not distinct from the majority in terms of race, colour, descent or ethnic origin. Originally, they were itinerant but 80% are now sedentary. It should not, therefore, be assumed that Travellers live on the road: in Norway, Travellers are sedentary while Roma move around!

Irish Travellers call themselves "*Pavee*" in their own language. This language, known as "the Cant", "Shelta" or "Gammon" by native speakers themselves, has

a mainly English and Irish vocabulary (with some borrowings from Romani) and a grammar close to that of English. Many words are formed by reversing syllables. For a long time Travellers were also known as “Tinkers” or “Tinklers”, a term that is pejorative in their eyes, just as “Gypsy” can be to Roma – see below.

In French, the term “Travellers” is usually translated as “*Voyageurs*” or “*Gens du voyage*”. Within a French-speaking context, it is, however, best to keep the term “*Voyageurs*” in French to designate these populations, just as in English texts the use of “Travellers” is recommended, the two terms not being wholly equivalent. “*Gens du voyage*” used exclusively in France is an administrative term which also applies to non-Roma groups with a nomadic way of life. It thus covers not only the various branches of Roma (Roms, Sinti/Manush, Kale/Spanish Gypsies) but also other populations with a nomadic lifestyle.

There are no “British Travellers” as such in the United Kingdom, where the only terms used, particularly in England, are “Irish Travellers”, or “Travellers of Irish Heritage”. Like Roma/Gypsies (see under Gypsies below), they are regarded as a distinct ethnic group and are covered by the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities (unlike Travellers in Ireland).

However, in Northern Ireland and Scotland, the terms “Scottish Travellers” and “Irish Travellers” are used. In Scotland, the Scottish Gypsies/Travellers (some of them accept the term “Gypsies”, others do not) have sometimes been called “Nawkins” or “Nachins”, which are pejorative terms (see “Tinkers” above).

In Wales there are two groups, the Romanichals (see below), who nowadays speak Anglo-Romani and, in the north, the Kale (who arrived from Spain via France and Cornwall).

ROMANICHALS

In the United Kingdom, mainly in England and south Wales, the Romanichals identify themselves as “Gypsies” (sometimes “Roma/Gypsies” in official texts). They speak Anglo-Romani, a mixture of English and Romani vocabulary with English grammar.

YENISH

a Yenish (n)

Yenish (pl)

Yenish (adj)

Like the Irish Travellers, the Yenish are an indigenous non-Roma people living mainly in Switzerland. Some lead an itinerant lifestyle, but the majority (over 90%) are now sedentary. Local names sometimes applied to them include “*Karner*”, “*Laninger*”, “*Kessler*”, “*Fecker*” and “*Spengler*”. They speak German with some Romani, Latin and Hebrew borrowings.

GYPSIES

a Gypsy (n)

Gypsies (pl)

Gypsy (adj)

The term "Roma/Gypsies" was used by the Council of Europe for many years as these two names covered most areas and situations in Europe. The term "Roma" is fairly widely employed in central and eastern Europe, while "Gypsies" has a pejorative ring for many European Roma and Sinti, who reject it as an alien term, linked with negative, paternalist stereotypes which still pursue them in Europe.

In western Europe (e.g. United Kingdom, Spain, France, Portugal), in Hungary and certain parts of Russia, "Gypsy" or its national equivalent (*Gitano*, *Tsigane*, *Cigano*, *Cigány*, *Tsyganye*, etc.) is more acceptable and sometimes more appropriate. Thus many NGOs or federations of associations set up in western European states have "Gypsies" or "*Tsiganes*" in their title.

The term "Gypsy" is also generally accepted and used in the artistic sphere (e.g. "Gypsy music"), even in countries which otherwise prefer the use of "Roma".

The fact that some groups accept the use of "Gypsies" or "*Tsiganes*" was used (until July 2006) as an argument by the former chairman of the MG-S-ROM, previously called the Group of Specialists on Roma, Gypsies and Travellers, in favour of keeping these terms in the committee's name.

GADJE/GADGE (NON-ROMA)

a gadgo (n)

gajde/gadge (pl)

gajde/gadge (adj)

This term means "non-Roma" in Romani. It is recommended not to use a capital "G", unlike in "Roma/Sinti/Kale", since they are not a people. In fact, this is the name given by Roma to all those who do not belong to their community (just as "*goy/goyim*" means "non-Jew/non-Jews"). The sound "dj" is rendered by a special letter in the Romani alphabet [ʒ], and for this reason the transcription is different in English (*gadje*) and French (*gadje*).

In Kaló, spoken in the Iberian peninsula, the term used to designate non-Roma is "*payo*" (plural: "*payos*").

Terms designating the language

ROMANI

Romani/Romani language

Romani, or "*Romani čhib*" in Romani, is an Indo-European language (Indo-Aryan sub-branch) like Greek and the Romance, Germanic, Slav, Baltic and Celtic languages.

It is a language in its own right – one cannot speak of Romani languages in the plural, and it is understood by a very large proportion of European Roma despite the many variants (it is preferable to speak of "variants" of Romani rather than "dialects"). The variants are explained by the fact that some groups have borrowed to differing degrees from the vocabulary of their surroundings.

In English, "Romani" is to be preferred to "Romany", though the latter still appears frequently in dictionaries.

In western Europe, and particularly in France, the term "*romanes*" (pronounced "romanèss") is quite often used for the Romani language. In fact, it is the adverb: "*parler romanes*" means "to speak in Romani".

Interpretation into Romani has been provided as a matter of course for a decade now at events organised by the Council of Europe on this subject (it is also the third working language of the Committee of Experts on Roma and Travellers, alongside French and English, the official languages). Interpretation into Romani has also become routine in the other international organisations.

Some Romani populations have virtually lost the use of Romani or now speak a language (a kind of "pidgin" or hybrid language) influenced to varying degrees by the official language of the country they live in, as for example in the case of the Kale in Spain, the Sinti in the Germanic countries, the Romungrès in Hungary and the Gypsies in the United Kingdom.

Council of Europe structures or projects

Migration and Roma Department

attached to DG III (Directorate General of Social Cohesion)
www.coe.int/t/dg3/default_EN.asp

Roma and Travellers Division

attached to the Migration and Roma Department
www.coe.int/t/dg3/RomaTravellers/Default_EN.asp

(Council of Europe) Co-ordinator for Activities concerning Roma and Travellers

attached to the Private Office of the Secretary General but located in DG III
www.coe.int/t/dg3/romatravellers/coordinator_EN.asp

Committee of Experts on Roma and Travellers (MG-S-ROM)

This has been the name of this intergovernmental committee since the adoption of its new terms of reference on 12 July 2006. Between 1995 and 2002 it was known as the "Group of Specialists on Roma and Gypsies", and from 2002 to July 2006 as the "Group of Specialists on Roma, Gypsies and Travellers".
www.coe.int/t/dg3/romatravellers/mgsrom_EN.asp

Project: Education of Roma Children in Europe

This is a project developed by the Division for the European Dimension of Education to implement Committee of Ministers Recommendation No. R (2000) 4 on the education of Roma/Gypsy children in Europe, which is why the term "Gypsies" was retained during the first stage of the project (2003-05). The Steering Committee for Education adopted the terminology recommended in the glossary for the next stage of the project, Education of Roma Children in Europe.

www.coe.int/t/dg4/education/roma/default_EN.asp

Project: Route of Roma Culture and Heritage

The project was developed by the Directorate of Culture and Cultural and Natural Heritage, DG IV. The initial work on this subject, in particular the reports by Jean-Pierre Liégeois in 1993 and 1997, used the name "Gypsy Cultural Route". In 2003 at Brno in the Czech Republic, it was decided to change the name. Some texts still use "Roma/Gypsy Cultural Route" to refer to the project.

www.coe.int/t/dg4/cultureheritage/culture/routes/roma_EN.asp

Campaign: Dosta! Go Beyond Prejudice, Meet the Roma!

This is an awareness-raising campaign launched by the Roma and Travellers Division of the Directorate General of Social Cohesion, aimed at bringing non-Roma citizens closer to the Roma. Initially launched in five Balkan states in 2006-07 under a joint Council of Europe/European Commission programme, this campaign has been gradually extended to other member states of the Council of Europe. It seeks to eliminate a number of prejudices and stereotypes, and to recognise the contribution made by Roma culture to European cultural heritage.

www.dosta.org

Teaching the Roma genocide ("Samudaripen" or "Pharrajimos" in Romani)

Remembrance, particularly remembrance of the events which occurred during the Second World War, remains a sensitive and painful issue for Roma. Work covered by the project includes the production of teaching materials on Roma history and culture, the organisation of events and working meetings on the Roma genocide, and the setting-up of a website devoted to Roma remembrance.

www.romagenocide.org

2. The number of Roma and Travellers in Europe

There are 10 to 12 million Roma in Europe (as estimates vary from 6 to 16 million, the “10 to 12 million” range seems most appropriate for all 47 Council of Europe member states taken together). If we consider only the 27 European Union (EU) states, the estimate should be reduced to about 6 million.

As our knowledge stands at present, no precise data are available. Censuses are unreliable because the criteria for membership of this community, the definition of which is usually political, vary from one state to another. In addition, a significant number of people may avoid calling themselves Roma for various reasons, given the centuries of persecution and the fear of being registered and coming to the notice of the authorities. Migration, substantial at certain times, also makes exact counting difficult, especially as families can move within a very short period of time, may then return rapidly to their point of departure either voluntarily or arbitrarily, or may actually settle more permanently in a country.

At present, states are becoming more aware of the size of their Roma populations, and of the need to improve the situation by devising suitable programmes based on exact data. Roma organisations, which have strengthened their political position, are persuading Roma families and individuals that it is important to declare their membership of a minority claiming its rights.

Table 1: Official numbers and estimates of Roma and related populations in Europe

Countries are listed in decreasing order of average estimated number of Roma or related persons.

Country	Total population (World Bank 2010)	Official number (self-declared)	Last census	Minimum estimate	Maximum estimate	Average estimate (used by the Council of Europe)	Average estimate as a percentage of total population
Turkey	72 752 325	4 656	1945	500 000	5 000 000	2 750 000	3.78%
Romania	21 442 012	619 007	2011	1 200 000	2 500 000	1 850 000	8.63%
Russian Federation	141 750 000	205 007	2010	450 000	1 200 000	825 000	0.58%
Bulgaria	7 543 325	325 343	2011	700 000	800 000	750 000	9.94%
Hungary	10 008 703	190 046	2001	500 000	1 000 000	750 000	7.49%
Spain	46 081 574	Data unavailable		500 000	1 000 000	750 000	1.63%
Serbia (excl. Kosovo *)	7 292 574	108 193	2002	400 000	800 000	600 000	8.23%
Slovak Republic	5 433 456	89 920	2001	380 000	600 000	490 000	9.02%
France	64 876 618	Data unavailable		300 000	500 000	400 000	0.62%
Ukraine	45 870 700	47 917	2001	120 000	400 000	260 000	0.57%
United Kingdom	62 218 761	Data unavailable		150 000	300 000	225 000	0.36%
Czech Republic	10 525 090	11 718	2001	150 000	250 000	200 000	1.90%
"The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia"	2 060 563	53 879	2002	134 000	260 000	197 000	9.56%
Greece	11 319 048	Data unavailable		50 000	300 000	175 000	1.55%
Italy	60 483 521	Data unavailable		120 000	180 000	150 000	0.25%
Albania	3 204 284	1 261	2001	80 000	150 000	115 000	3.59%
Republic of Moldova	3 562 062	12 271	2004	14 200	200 000	107 100	3.01%
Germany	81 702 329	Data unavailable		70 000	140 000	105 000	0.13%
Bosnia and Herzegovina	3 760 149	8 864	1991	40 000	76 000	58 000	1.54%
Portugal	10 642 841	Data unavailable		34 000	70 000	52 000	0.49%
Sweden	9 379 116	Data unavailable		35 000	65 000	50 000	0.53%
Belarus	9 490 500	9 927	1999	25 000	70 000	47 500	0.50%
Netherlands	16 612 213	Data unavailable		32 000	48 000	40 000	0.24%
Kosovo *	1 815 000	45 745	1991	25 000	50 000	37 500	2.07%

Ireland	4 481 430	22 435	2006	32 000	43 000	37 500	0.84%
Croatia	4 424 161	9 463	2001	30 000	40 000	35 000	0.79%
Austria	8 384 745	6 273	2001	20 000	50 000	35 000	0.42%
Poland	38 187 488	12 731	2002	15 000	50 000	32 500	0.09%
Switzerland	7 825 243	Data unavailable		25 000	35 000	30 000	0.38%
Belgium	10 879 159	Data unavailable		20 000	40 000	30 000	0.28%
Montenegro	631 490	8 305	2011	15 000	25 000	20 000	3.17%
Latvia	2 242 916	8 517	2011	9 000	16 000	12 500	0.56%
Finland	5 363 624	Data unavailable		10 000	12 000	11 000	0.21%
Norway	4 885 240	Data unavailable		4 500	15 700	10 100	0.21%
Slovenia	2 052 821	3 246	2002	7 000	10 000	8 500	0.41%
Lithuania	3 320 656	2 571	2001	2 000	4 000	3 000	0.09%
Denmark	5 544 139	Data unavailable		1 000	4 000	2 500	0.05%
Armenia	3 092 072	50	2004	2 000	2 000	2 000	0.06%
Georgia	4 452 800	1 200	1989	1 500	2 500	2 000	0.04%
Azerbaijan	9 047 932	Data unavailable		2 000	2 000	2 000	0.02%
Cyprus	1 103 647	502	1960	1 000	1 500	1 250	0.11%
Estonia	1 339 646	584	2009	600	1 500	1 050	0.08%
Luxembourg	505 831	Data unavailable		100	500	300	0.06%
Malta	412 961	Data unavailable		0	0	0	0.00%
Iceland	317 398	Data unavailable		0	0	0	0.00%
Andorra	84 864	Data unavailable		0	0	0	0.00%
Liechtenstein	36 032	Data unavailable		0	0	0	0.00%
Monaco	35 407	Data unavailable		0	0	0	0.00%
San Marino	31 534	Data unavailable		0	0	0	0.00%
Total in Europe	828 510 000	1 809 631		6 206 900	16 313 700	11 260 300	1.36%
Council of Europe (47)	817 204 500	1 753 959		6 156 900	16 193 700	11 175 300	1.37%
European Union (27)	502 087 670	1 292 893		4 338 700	7 985 500	6 162 100	1.18%

* All reference to Kosovo, whether to the territory, institutions or population, in this text shall be understood in full compliance with United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244 and without prejudice to the status of Kosovo.